Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Hondal Elected Ciego de Avila PCC Secretary

FL171313 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Rafael Valdes Valdes has been relieved from his post as first secretary of the PCC in Ciego de Avila during a special meeting of the PCC Provincial Committee which was presided over by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the PCC Politburo; and Pedro Ross, member of the Central Committee Secretariat. Valdes Valdes will fulfill other tasks, in accordance with his long revolutionary history, experience, and possibilities. The PCC Provincial Committee in Ciego de Avila unanimously elected Alfredo Hondal Gonzalez by acclamation to fill the first secretary post. Hondal Gonzalez was first secretary of the PCC Provincial Committee in Las Tunas.

Malmierca Meets Spanish Ministry Official

FL170257 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Nov 87

[By Jose Arteaga]

[Text] Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban foreign minister, received Mr Maximo Cajal, secretary general for political affairs at the Spanish Foreign Ministry, this afternoon. The two leaders discussed current international topics and bilateral relations.

Mr Cajal said that he brings a fraternal message from the Spanish Foreign Ministry to the Cuban Government.

Also attending the meeting were Mr Antonio Serrano, Spanish ambassador to Cuba, and Mario Martinez Sobrino, acting director of Western Europe [title as heard], as well as other MINREX [Foreign Ministry] officials.

Rodriguez Meets With Uruguayan Minister

FL170316 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0304 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Hugo Fernandez Faingold, minister of labor of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

During the meeting, the Uruguayan minister conveyed to Carlos Rafael greetings from President Sanguinetti and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias. Fernandez Faingold expressed his satisfaction with visiting our country once again and he told the Cuban vice president about the changes he has seen during this visit.

Also discussed at the meeting were the similarities and differences in the two countries' labor situation, as well as the agreements reached by Minister Fernandez Faingold and his Cuban counterpart Francisco Linares Calvo, who also attended the talks.

Election to UNESCO Committee Announced

FL172213 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2108 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Cuba was elected to a 4-year term on the committee responsible for UNESCO's international program on communications development.

Cuba and Colombia were also elected members of the intergovernmental committee on cultural development planning, which was created yesterday and is based on the guidelines of the 24th General UNESCO Conference. The committee is composed of 36 members and the Latin American representatives include Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Guatemala, and Venezuela.

Two weeks ago, the 24th conference elected Cuban Ambassador Alfredo Guevara to be a member of the UNESCO Executive Council.

15th UIS Congress Opens in Havana 16 Nov

FL171530 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] The 15th congress of the International Union of Students [UIS] opened officially with a large rally held on the steps of the University of Havana. The first plenary session took place at Havana's Palace of Conventions last night. The session dealt basically with technical matters.

Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo, and Bayardo Arce, commander of the Sandinist Revolution attended the session. Bayardo Arce gave a short speech which stressed that Nicaragua will always be willing to seek peace but, if it does not get a response to its efforts, Nicaragua will send its last man to fight to defend the cause of freedom, progress, and changes every person is entitled to have.

(Joseph Scala), president of the UIS, thanked the Sandinist leader for his words and said they encouraged the solidary work of the organization with the Nicaraguan people, youth, and students. The forum will hold today a special session for solidarity with Central America and especially with Nicaragua.

Haiti

Note Says 'Macoutes' Cause Desarmes Attacks

FL172332 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] On the eve of general elections in Haiti, the population of Desarmes is in great danger.

A news release says that just 14 days before the elections, Desarmes is like a powder keg beginning to explode, due to the presence of a Macoute group known as Sans Maman led by (Saint Jean Jeantilus), (Odilon Cesar), (Milotes Emile), and Luc Toussaint under the supervision of a former presidential candidate whose candidacy was rejected.

(Saint Jean Jeantilus), who is also known as (Biente), formed this group on Sunday, 8 November, and it has more than 40 people in it.

Thirteen groups began operating on Friday. In the evening, they attacked the residences of democrats in the area: (Makorel Josne), delegate of the Communal Electoral Office [BEC]; promoters (Odma Prudent) and (Jean Remy Azor); and (Smid Joseph). One of these men had allowed his house to be used as BEC headquarters for the area.

According to the note, there was not just rock-throwing but also shooting following each volley of rocks.

The note also points out that the corporal at the outpost has declared that there will be no more meetings held in Desarmes. As for Ajepopo [Association of Young People's Power of Haiti], he doesn't even want to hear it mentioned anymore.

This is a real problem because the police, who should be providing security, are acting in concert with the individuals who are committing criminal acts in Desarmes.

The Port-au-Prince police and the Haitian Army in Port-au-Prince are asked to look into this, because the authorities and the police in Desarmes are not assuming their responsibilities and because this constitutes a great danger hanging over the heads of the population.

Drivers React to Gasoline Price Increase

FL172316 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Another news item of current interest is the increase in the price of gasoline and diesel fuel arbitrarily decided by the minister of commerce, Anadipp [National Association of Importers of Petroleum Products], and the oil companies.

The CSTH [Central Organization of Haitian Transport Workers Unions] sees in this measure a maneuver to create disorder in Haiti and obstruct the electoral process. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording CSTH President Louisius Dacius] [Passage omitted] We had a general assembly. The drivers who are members of the CSTH were clear on the matter—elections must take place. They will pay whatever a gallon of gasoline costs, even if it is $20 per gallon. And they will take a position after 29 November. [passage omitted] [end recording]

As you can see, the drivers think that this increase, the many criminal acts committed in the streets by alleged drivers, and the attacks on drivers are all provocations. The drivers say they will not fall into the trap, but rather will prepare themselves to take action later.

Voter Registration Figures Reported

Port-de-Paix Commune

FL180043 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 17 Nov 87

[By Port-de-Paix correspondent (Theodore Megalos Axius)]

[Excerpt] A week after the closing of voter registration, the persons in charge of the Departmental Electoral Office for the Department of the Northwest still do not have all the statistical data on voter registration. However, we can give the figures obtained from the Communal Electoral Office for Port-de-Paix. These figures are only for the commune of Port-de-Paix.

Out of the 36,505 eligible voters, 25,165 people registered to vote, or 69 percent. Out of the 77 registration offices that were scheduled to open, 71 have done so.

The voter registrations break down is as follows: In Port-de-Paix, 15 voter registration offices opened out of the 19 offices planned. Out of 9,311 people of voting age, 6,406 people have registered to vote, or 68 percent.

In the six communal sections, 56 voter registration offices opened out of the 57 planned. Out of the (?27,194) eligible voters, 18,756 people have registered to vote. This is 69 percent. [passage omitted]

Anse-a-Veau Commune

FL180026 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 17 Nov 87

[By Miragoane correspondent Yves Marie Jasmin]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to the president of the Communal Electoral Office [BEC] [of Anse-a-Veau] two members of the Armed Forces provided security at the Anse-a-Veau BEC for 3 days. We talked to the commanding officer of the military subdistrict and he implied that this is because things are quiet now; but the minute the BEC needs security, it will be the duty of the Haitian Army to protect it.

In Anse-a-Veau, out of 20,057 people of voting age, 16,264 have registered. We do not yet have final figures for Miragoane. In Petite Riviere de Nippes 6,174 voters registered out of approximately 12,000 persons of voting age. [passage omitted]

St Lucia

Prime Minister Says Changes Needed

FL162141 Bridgetown CANA in English 2058 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Nov 16, CANA—Prime Minister John Compton on Sunday warned St Lucia was ill-prepared to grasp the breath-taking changes of the new technological age, and said fundamental changes will have to be made to ready the nation.

Addressing the annual convention of his ruling United Workers Party (UWP) on the theme "The 1990's—Challenge and Change", Compton said two of the biggest problems St Lucia will face in the immediate future are uncontrolled population growth and uncontrolled growth in public expenditure. Unless these two problems are brought under control, all our plans will remain mere dreams, Compton said.

In addition, our education system must be completely restructured to give it a technical and vocational bias to service an economy that is rapidly being modernised; and the training of our teachers must reflect this new orientation.

Compton called for the eradication of waste and the boosting of efficiency.

The prime minister said the shape of the economy was another fundamental issue, and government had identified a number of projects which are essential if the island is to maintain a reasonable rate of growth and provide the basic essentials for a population which continues to increase at the rate of 4,000 per year. He listed among the big ten targets for economic development the completion of the new Millet pipeline, located in a district 12 miles west of here, which will bring an additional four million gallons of water per day into the area, and the commencement of construction of a EC137 million dollar Roseau dam (1EC dollar=37 U.S. cents).

Other projects mentioned were the extension of the Vigie Airport to accommodate medium-size jets as well as the construction of new terminal facilities there; completion of the first phase of the major west coast road project; modernisation of the port in the industrial capital Vieux Fort to accommodate container ships; and continued development at the main port in Castries.

The construction of a new hospital, a cultural complex, and phase two of the Point Seraphin Duty Free Shopping Complex; completion of the technical vocational college at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College; and the launching of the agricultural diversification project in cooperation with the other Windward Islands were also named by Prime Minister Compton.

These are goals which are attainable but only if we are prepared to work steadfastly for their attainment, Compton said.

Belize

Salvadoran Vice President on Relations

FL172357 Bridgetown CANA in English 2144 GMT 17 Nov 87

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Nov 17, CANA—The vice president of El Salvador, Antonio Castillo Claramont, has urged Belize and Guatemala to speedily resolve their territorial dispute, since it could lead to other areas of confrontation and increase regional tensions.

Claramont was on a four-day visit to Belize at the invitation of the Belize Government.

He told a press conference that his visit was in recognition of our respect for the people and government of Belize and Belize's role in the geo-political perspective of the Central American region. "Guatemala has a long standing claim to Belizean territory.

Asked about Belize's absence from the Central American peace plan, the Salvadorean vice president said that it was not a question of disallowing Belize from becoming involved in solving the region's problems.

We do not believe that Belize has at this moment a participatory role in the political problems of Central America, he said. It is not because we do not want to involve Belize or Panama. It is because the five countries which have agreed to the Arias Peace Plan (named after the president of Costa Rica) is a special problem for the five countries mentioned, Claramont added.

The Salvadorean vice president said his government wanted to create a special joint commission in cooperation with the Belize administration to try to find solutions to the human and social problems affecting Salvadoran refugees in Belize. He said that apart from the civil war in El Salvador, the other problem with people leaving that country was that it was "too small with too many people.

We do want to solve this problem and we do not want it to create hostilities between the governments of Belize and El Salvador, Claramont said.

He rejected allegations by Salvadoran refugees in Belize that death squads were still in operation and would harm them if they returned home.

Death squads are not a reality in El Salvador, Claramont declared.

He said that the reported cases of abuses by the military authorities in El Salvador have decreased a great deal.

The Salvadoran official noted that less than a month ago five thousand Salvadoran refugees from Mesa Grande in Honduras returned home and were free to move and enjoy the right of any other Salvadoran citizen.

Here are officially two thousand refugees from El Salvador in Belize, who are participating in a land re-settlement programme jointly sponsored by the government of Belize and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. The number of un-documented aliens has been put by government officials at between 7,000 and 20,000.

The government of Belize has decided not to ratify the Geneva Convention on refugees and to close the door on more refugees wishing to come into Belize.

Last Friday, on a motion by the minister of home affairs, Curl Thompson, the House of Representatives voted to amend the local government ordinance to discontinue the registration of aliens as electors at the Belize City Council and other local government elections.

ROK Formalizes Relations, Appoints Ambassador

FL171607 Bridgetown CANA in English 1519 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Nov 17, CANA—South Korea's resident ambassador to Mexico, Na-Hyon Tak, has been accredited to Belize. The two countries formalized their diplomatic relations when Na-Hyon Tak presented his credentials to the governor of Belize, Dame Minita Gordon.

The Korean diplomat expressed an interest in the kind of partnership with Belize that would expand industries and promote world peace. South Korea has already given the Belize Government a fleet of vehicles and is assisting with the improvement of sports facilities in Belize City.

Costa Rica

Wounded Nicaraguan Rebels Hospitalized

PA171401 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Nov 87 p 12

[Text] Commissioner Juan Felix Barrantes, director general of the Civil Guards, reported yesterday that the EPS has dealt a crushing blow to the Nicaraguan rebels fighting in the southern part of Nicaragua. He also said several wounded have been taken to the hospital at Los Chiles.

The second commissioner, Luis Herrera Chavez, in a radio report to the Public Security Ministry, said that the three wounded came from the area of the San Juan River and were identified as Jose Garcia Mejia, 24, also known as "Chocuyo;" Domingo Avila Rios, 18, also known as "Gacela;" and Jose Medina Aguilar, 17, also known as "Pantera."

The three men told the authorities at Los Chiles that they were wounded when they stepped on a mine during a routine patrol on the banks of the San Juan River.

Hospital sources reported that Jose Garcia, whose right leg is seriously wounded, is in the worst condition. The other two are wounded in the abdomen and lower torso.

Minister Hernan Garron Salazar has been in direct contact since yesterday with the observation posts set up along the common border with the purpose of taking any appropriate measures.

The official told our reporters that he has been told that there are continuous explosions on the other side of the border, but that this does not affect Costa Rica.

The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) has commented on the break in the unilateral truce ordered by the Sandinist government and issued a communique stating that Daniel Ortega's promises made after he returned from Moscow on 5 November are far from being a sign of hope for peace. Instead, they threaten the security of the Nicaraguan people and Central Americans and "continue to violate the Esquipulas II agreements."

The RN political leaders made this statement which emphasizes that the peace process has been deliberately deadlocked by the Sandinist government and that the peace process "will not advance unless a visa to enter Managua is issued for the high-level Resistance delegation, unless a general and broad amnesty is issued, and unless the state of emergency is abolished."

It has not been officially reported if anyone was killed during the combat which intensified as soon as Ortega ordered the continuation of the armed struggle.

The Resistance leaders said that Ortega speaks about simultaneous fulfillment of the agreements, but that this is "theoretical and in practice inconsistent with the peace agreements."

Meanwhile, it was reported from the San Carlos Hospital that everything is calm and that there are no wounded soldiers there. The hospital is prepared to receive any Nicaraguans injured in the armed struggle.

RN spokesmen said that the EPS has been waging furious and fierce attacks that force the rebels to seek shelter in safer areas.

El Salvador

Ministers Say No New Rebel Proposals on Talks

PA180334 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Ministers Fidel Chavez Mena and Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, who participated in the last talks with the guerrillas, today said that there is no rebel proposal to continue the negotiations.

According to the government officials, since the suspension of the talks at the FMLN-FDR's initiative the rebel fronts have not made any formal proposals to resume the negotiations. They spoke about a letter, which Msgr Rivera y Damas was supposed to bring them, but as of today they do not know what happened to the letter or what its contents may be.

[Begin Rey Prendes recording] The only thing we know is what we have read in the media. Other than that we, as part of the dialogue commission, have not received any direct report on this. We have always been willing to meet. We have to make some decisions in this regard to continue the talks with the guerrillas. We have always been for that. [end recording]

During last Sunday's homily Msgr Rivera y Damas said that one of the points he discussed with the rebel delegation was the departure of more than 40 injured people. Regarding this issue Rey Prendes said that only the Armed Forces, the International Red Cross, and the church could handle this problem and that the government had nothing to do with it.

After the news conference, Dr Chavez Mena insisted that he, and no one else, would reveal his resignation as planning minister to devote his time to the electoral campaign.

[Begin recording] [Chavez Mena] Evidently the decision... [changes thought] there is no problem, there is no significance in this, either with the president or with the party. A group of party officials are going to resign to engage in political campaigning, to support our candidates for deputies and mayors, and that is not compatible with government functions, and therefore that is the decision. When that moment comes, in my particular case, I will announce it [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Is there going to be an official communique? Is your replacement being considered?

[Chavez Mena] The president is going to have to make a decision [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Concerning the Ministry of Culture and Communications, from which Mr Rey Prendes' withdrawal has already been confirmed, it is unofficially known that the current deputy minister is the favorite candidate.

Rivera y Damas on Dialogue, Nation's Future

PA171455 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Report on news conference held by Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas with unidentified reporters in San Salvador, on 15 November—monitored in progress]

[Text] ...held in Mexico City and the peace proposal sent to the government.

[Begin recording] [Rivera y Damas] The proposal included four points: the first one was not a renewal of the dialogue—their attitude was somewhat indifferent—it was only an explanation of why the dialogue was interrupted; the second point referred to the crippled fighters' issue, referring to those rebels who need medical attention; the third point concerned the amnesty; and the last one referred to the FDR members' arrival in the country. One of the most urgent points referred to was the crippled fighters' departure, and the president told me this was not a problem—provided they accepted the amnesty. The problems arose when this was reported to the other side, and I believe they should have accepted the proposal so the departure could be organized as soon as possible. Those who need medical attention should get it without delay.

[Reporter] Monsignor, during the homily you talked about the death of a sexton and you said members of the Treasury Police are directly involved in this crime.

[Rivera y Damas] [Words indistinct] about this. I have blamed no one. I said there was evidence which led us to believe that, and we requested a thorough investigation.

[Reporter] Why do you believe the Treasury Police are responsible for that?

[Rivera y Damas] Because there have been similar cases, and it was discovered that Treasury Police members had been involved in them.

[Reporter] How many crippled rebels want to leave the country?

[Rivera y Damas] Approximately 40 have requested authorization to leave, and 20 have already arrived at [words indistinct] shelter.

[Question indistinct]

[Rivera y Damas] It does not mean this is a challenge. Let us not get carried away. Instead, we should seek more rational ways to settle the conflicts instead, because no one has denied that the conflicts prevail. However, it is not advisable to resort to violence to try to resolve them.

[Reporter] Monsignor, is it true the FDR members [words indistinct]?

[Rivera y Damas] I know nothing about this.

[Reporter] The UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] might announce a dialogue with the government next week. One of the UNTS proposals is the immediate departure of military advisers. What is your view on this?

[Rivera y Damas] Well, I believe that talks should always be held without conditions; that is one of the decisions which has been adopted. I believe this is advisable because they can present all their proposals or demands during the dialogue. That is where they can present all the demands they want so the issues may be resolved through a dialogue.

[Question indistinct]

[Rivera y Damas] No, I think they may request that and more, provided they do it during a dialogue and not as a condition prior to the dialogue. [end recording]

The archbishop of San Salvador revealed he has already heard there is a possibility that the government may suspend the dialogue.

[Begin recording] [Rivera y Damas] I heard Engineer Viera issue the statements, but I have not received a notification—as mediator—so that I may officially inform the other party. I believe the parties are free to issue whatever statements or views they choose, but I must be officially notified before I inform the other party. Then I will gladly do so.

[Reporter] Monsignor, you said you also condemned the three murders perpetrated by the guerrilla forces. To which murders were you referring?

[Rivera y Damas] Yes, I did not expand on that. I was talking about the five cases that were reported which showed all the signs the murders had been perpetrated by death squads. Later, I referred to the other cases. I had the information but, of course, the details would have taken too much time. I had already mentioned the Soyapango sexton's case so I thought it was not convenient to go into great detail.

[Reporter] Monsignor, do you think the rebels who need medical attention should accept the amnesty?

[Rivera y Damas] That has been the government's condition until now. I believe this would help resolve the problem. Anyway, several political prisoners have accepted the amnesty so I believe the others should also do so.

[Reporter] Monsignor, do you think the [words indistinct] and the Zona Rosa cases should be part of the amnesty?

[Rivera y Damas] When a measure like this is implemented, I believe—and I pointed this out during the homily—it should be done in a broad way. We are interested that this be known and the news media have an important role to play. The news media should make it quite clear that, although justice has not been enforced because the government preferred to forgive and forget, we should not forget the reason why so many have given their lives: They wanted a more honest and just society. That is what we have to achieve through the amnesty.

The amnesty has been granted and it should be accepted, but we should not forget the sacrifice of others if we really want a different future for El Salvador. [end recording]

UNTS Presents 10-Point Proposal to Government

PA172012 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] For the first time in 2 years, and within the framework of Esquipulas II, the national Internal Dialogue Commission met yesterday with the leaders of the main trade union, which opposes the Salvadoran Government. The leaders of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers, UNTS, executive committee met with Minister of Culture and Communications Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes and Legislative Assembly President Guillermo Guevarra Lacayo, to whom they presented a 10-point proposal.

Rey Prendes and Guevarra Lacayo were named by President Duarte as members of the Internal Dialogue Commission to try and restart talks with all groups in the country. Duarte announced on 5 November—90 days after signing the peace document—that his government, through the Internal Dialogue Commission, is willing to talk to the unarmed opposition, including the UNTS and the factions within the University of El Salvador. Both groups, which oppose the Christian Democratic leadership, have repeatedly protested Duarte's steadfast refusal to grant them a meeting to discuss the resolution of problems related to the working class, a situation that was resolved yesterday.

UNTS leader Julio Cesar Portillo said they would meet as often as necessary, provided that definite results are noticeable during this process. The UNTS proposal was received by Rey Prendes, who promised to forward the proposal through normal government channels, which impose certain limitations on the overall topics of discussion with regard to Esquipulas II.

The 10-point proposal of the country's main trade union—UNTS—which claims to have a membership of some 250,000 government and private workers, demands that the government repeal economic measures that harm the people; withdraw U.S. advisors from the country; dismantle the American Institute for Free Labor Development, which they blame for dividing the Salvadoran workers movement; increase wages in proportion to the cost of living; and punish those responsible for murders and kidnappings, especially those involved in the Las Hojas case. On this last point, the UNTS demands the trial and punishment of the killers of Archbishop Arnulfo Romero, who was shot to death on 24 March 1980; human rights activist Herbert Anaya, killed on 26 October 1987; and the 74 victims of the Las Hojas massacre, who were murdered in February 1983. The peasants had their hands tied and were then murdered.

Both sectors agreed to discuss the UNTS proposal, point by point, at a future meeting, according to Humberto Centeno, telecommunications worker and trade unionist. The next meeting is to take place on 24 November at the Legislative Palace.

Duarte has accused UNTS leaders of adhering to guerrilla propaganda and being a front organization ever since the founding of the UNTS on 8 February 1986. This has been the reason Duarte has insistently refused to talk with UNTS leaders.

9 Soldiers Killed in Bridge Checkpoint Attack

PA171733 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] A military source today reported that guerrillas inflicted 17 [as heard] casualties on the Army as a result of heavy fighting that took place in the country's interior.

The military note states that nine soldiers were killed and eight more injured during an attack on the El Delirio bridge checkpoint, south of the city of San Miguel. The Bailey bridge was damaged during the attack, but military troops prevented its complete destruction.

Two soldiers of the 5th Infantry Brigade were injured during rebel harassment that occurred at a place known as Las Vueltas de los Morales, near San Vicente. Other military garrisons were harassed in Jocoro; Morazan and Chirilagua in San Miguel Department; and Tushtepeque and El Rosario in Cusclatan Department.

In another report, the Army blamed guerrillas for the death of the local commander of El Catorce farm, located in the outskirts of Quetzaltepeque, La Libertad Department.

Guatemala

Government Issues Political Amnesty Decree

PA172150 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Decree No 7187 issued by the Guatemalan Congress on 28 October]

[Text] The Congress of the Republic of Guatemala,

Whereas:

In the meeting of the presidents of the Republics of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica—Esquipulas II—held in Guatemala City on 6 and 7 August 1987, a document entitled "Procedures To Establish a Firm and Lasting Peace in Central America" was signed and point 1.C of this document concerning national reconciliation stipulates that each Central

American country will issue an amnesty decree to establish regulations guaranteeing the right to life, all freedoms, and the property and security of the people affected by this decree;

It is a state duty to guarantee to the inhabitants of the Republic their lives, liberty, security, peace, and overall development; and the fulfillment of international commitments made for the benefit of the Guatemalan people and the causes of peace, development, and the welfare of Central America;

Therefore, exercising the powers granted by Articles 165 and 171, letter C, of the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala, decrees:

Article 1. An amnesty for political and related common crimes committed against the state's political order by those who were directly involved as the perpetrators or their accomplices.

Article 2. The people who want to benefit from the amnesty mentioned in the previous article must go to the courts of the Republic, departmental government offices, the mayor's office, or the nearest military authority within 180 days from the date on which this law becomes effective. They must go to those authorities and express their right to seek the protection of this law. A document will be immediately drafted certifying that the person sought this amnesty and a guarantee for the respect for the human rights mentioned in the Constitution. A copy of this document will be given to the interested party, and he will be set free. The arms, ammunition, and other military supplies in the possession of the person benefiting from the amnesty must be delivered, or he must disclose where they are.

The amnesty petition obliges the judge to immediately order the release of the convicted or detained individual and dismiss the case against that person. No fine would be required in any of the cases.

In the cases of those who were already convicted or who must be tried for crimes mentioned in this law, they can seek the benefit of this amnesty if they so request it before the court that has heard their case or before the Supreme Court.

Article 3. To carry out that which is mentioned in Article 2, those who may wish to do so may go to the main authorities of San Carlos University or any of its branches; the private universities; professional associations; any church, regardless of its denomination; or the Guatemalan Red Cross. In this case, the institution that receives the declaration will have to notify the closest court, government office, mayor's office, or military authority. The institution must tell any of those institutions about the decision and intention of the person seeking amnesty. These institutions may receive weapons, ammunition, and military supplies as a deposit, but they will have to be immediately delivered to the corresponding military authority.

Article 4. The executive branch will issue all the regulations aimed at respecting the human rights established in the Guatemalan Constitution and the international agreements [words indistinct] for all the people benefiting from the amnesty mentioned in this law.

In accordance with Article 31 of the Constitution, all institutions are hereby prohibited from drafting lists, indexes, or any other registries with the names and political affiliations of those who seek amnesty protection. No judicial process of an administrative (?nature) can record the fact that any of those people sought this amnesty. The fact that a person sought the protection of the amnesty will not be registered in the criminal or police records of any of those benefiting from it.

Article 5. This decree will become effective when it is published in the official gazette.

Let this be turned over to the executive branch to be published and complied with.

Issued at the Legislative Palace in Guatemala City on 28 October 1987

[signed] Roberto Adolfo Valle Valdizan, acting President

Ramiro Leal Espinoza, Secretary

Jose Francisco Lopez Ibaurre, Secretary

National Palace, Guatemala City, 29 October 1987

Let this be published and complied with.

Vinicio Cerezo Arevalos, President

Juan Jose Rodin Peralta, Government Minister

Nicaragua

Government Proposal to Political Parties

PA172110 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1952 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government today proposed to the parties participating in the national dialogue the inclusion in the agenda of all aspects related to electoral matters. The proposal especially emphasized popular participation in possible municipal elections in 1988. In its proposal to the political parties, the government expressed its concern over the slow pace of the dialogue, in which only the internal regulations have been approved.

Here is the text of the government's proposal:

[Begin speaker recording, in progress]...so far having produced the approval of its regulations as the only result.

2. In the latest session on 12 November, when efforts were being made to at least arrive at a consensus so a technical commission could take care of revising the agenda, difficulties once again emerged on the part of one of the political parties participating that prevented the creation of the commission.

3. The Nicaraguan Government maintains its firm determination of advancing in its compliance with the Esquipulas II agreements, as it has been demonstrating with specific actions, particularly in aspects related to the national dialogue. It has already shown its flexibility by incorporating five political groups in the dialogue.

4. The main objectives of the national dialogue, as specified in the Esquipulas II agreements, is to urgently conduct actions in favor of national reconciliation in cases where there are profound divisions within society—actions that will permit popular participation with full guarantees in authentic democratic political processes based on justice, liberty, and democracy.

5. On 13 November the Nicaraguan Government presented a cease-fire proposal to the counterrevolution in which it clearly established that the political dialogue is and will be through the political parties and groups participating in the national dialogue, which they can join once a cease-fire is achieved and they take part in the country's political life through amnesty.

6. The Nicaraguan Government has been considering the possibility of having municipal elections in 1988. In the event the Central American parliament treaty is ratified, we would also tentatively hold those elections in 1988.

7. The Nicaraguan Government is concerned over the slow pace of the talks at the national dialogue, which at times seems to show there is no serious willingness on the part of some of the parties and groups participating to arrive at agreements with the government.

8. Hence, it is the Nicaraguan Government's responsibility to conduct all the necessary efforts to achieve peace in our country, an objective toward which the Esquipulas II agreements represent a firm and decisive step.

Therefore, the Nicaraguan Government proposes to the political parties and groups represented in the national dialogue the following:

1. The political parties and groups support the steps taken by the Nicaraguan Government—certified by the National Reconciliation Commission—and endorse the commission's recent statement.

2. The political parties and groups express their satisfaction over recent steps taken by the Nicaraguan Government regarding the cease-fire, amnesty, pardons, and lifting the state of emergency—which are considered firm—although initial—steps in the current process of national pacification and reconciliation.

The simultaneity in compliance with the agreements on the part of the Central American governments and the achievement of a cease-fire will signify the total compliance with the already mentioned steps.

3. In accordance with the Esquipulas II agreements, the agenda for the national dialogue will be all matters pertaining to elections, without exceptions or conditions that attempt to place obstacles in the path of the signature of firm agreements in this regard. The themes developed concerning the agenda submitted by the government and those that the opposition might see fit to submit on this matter will not be the subject of ultimatums, conditions, or pressures, but will always be understood as proposals for the consideration of the other party.

4. The Government of Nicaragua proposes as an agenda for the national dialogue, in principle, the following aspects concerning the form of participation by the people, which are directly related to the electoral processes that will take place in the country in the future and within the institutional order:

a. Law of municipalities;

b. Reforms to the electoral law;

c. Reforms to the law of political parties;

d. Treaty of the Central American parliament;

e. Mechanisms of participation in the country's institutionality of extraparliamentary political parties; and

f. Date of elections for municipalities and the Central American parliament.

5. The Government of Nicaragua, depending on the following:

a. Compliance with the simultaneity principle on the part of the Central American governments concerning Esquipulas II; and

b. The progress of the pending negotiations to achieve a cease-fire that will allow the reintegration of the counterrevolutionaries into the country's political life,

Will be able to consider in the future the discussion of:

a. The legal recognition of the new parties and political organizations so they may participate in the forthcoming elections, provided an agreement is reached in the national dialogue; and, finally,

b. Pluralist and representative integration of the Supreme Electoral Council. [end recording]

Arce Comments on Esquipulas Compliance

FL170241 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Nov 87

["Portion" of interview with Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce, vice coordinator of the Executive Commission of the FSLN, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander Bayardo Arce, how are the Esquipulas agreements being fulfilled? Could you refer specifically to Nicaragua's case and also to the other Central American countries?

[Arce] Well, we believe the Nicaraguan Government has practically fulfilled the agreements 100 percent even though it is known by our people and the international community that the execution of some of these agreements is subject to the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission. This commission has to verify that the other countries have fulfilled the agreements and that this is being done simultaneously as required in the accords to guarantee a feeling of regional stability.

We believe we have to wait for the international commission to meet on 5 December so they can evaluate the other countries' fulfillment of the accords. We hope that all have honored their presidents' signatures.

[Reporter] But how do you think this is progressing in other countries, such as Guatemala and El Salvador? How is the fulfillment of these agreements progressing?

[Arce] Undoubtedly the fulfillment of these agreements is very complex because the commitments made by each government establish different kinds of obligations for each country. An example of this is the matter of democratization.

In regard to democratization, in countries like Honduras, Guatemala, or El Salvador this would mean lifting restrictions that currently exist on communist parties. Everyone knows that those parties have been declared illegal. They are not allowed to carry out any activities. This would be against the spirit and agreements of Esquipulas. Up to this moment we have not learned of any decision to change that type of action, which is contrary to the Esquipulas agreements, but on 5 December the commission will evaluate this.

To be more precise in my response, we believe we are progressing, that we have a higher level of fulfillment than other countries in regard to the complex obligations that the presidents drafted at that meeting.

Further Remarks

FL172240 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Statement by Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce in Havana; date not given—recorded]

[Text] As far as we are concerned, the Esquipulas II agreements are not in contradiction with our revolutionary plans. Had they been in contradiction with our revolutionary plans we would not have signed them, Nicaragua would not have signed them. Why are the agreements not in contradiction with our revolutionary plans? Because the Esquipulas agreements are based on respect for the constitutional regime, the organization of constitutional ideas of each of the countries; respect for their laws; and respect for the legitimacy of the governments. The agreements respect our Constitution, our laws, and the legitimacy of our government; therefore, we do not feel the basic principles of the revolution can be affected because these principles are established in our Constitution.

The problem is that there could be other interpretations. As we would say, revolution is many times associated with instructions established in a manual. Perhaps there are some people who feel that the Nicaraguan revolutionary system follows some manual. However, our revolution only follows what we have always practiced and our own political position.

Borge Comments on Talks With Contras

PM171351 Copenhagen DET FRI AKTUELT in Danish 6 Nov 87 p 15

[Report on interview with Interior Minister Tomas Borge by Gali Chavez in Managua; date not given]

[Text] Managua—[Chavez] Why do you not want to negotiate with the contras?

[Borge] The contras are financed by the U.S. Administration, which controls them. The contras' leaders have no independent views and will never be allowed to have a view. What should we negotiate with them about? Should we discuss sharing power with them? Never.

Tomas Borge is one of Nicaragua's most powerful men. He is interior minister, commander, and veteran of the Sandinist movement. Tomas Borge is the only survivor of the leaders who in the early sixties started the revolutionary movement which triumphed in 1979 when the tyrant of many years standing, Anastasio Somoza, was thrown out.

Borge views the contras as an isolated group without any support other than that from the United States, and he sees the contras as a clear opposite to the partisan movement in El Salvador.

"There is no comparison at all between the situations in Nicaragua and El Salvador," Tomas Borge said. "The Salvadoran partisans survive on the strength of their own resources and international solidarity. The contras have no international base, just government support from the United States.

"But if contra leader Alfonso Robelo wants to make use of the amnesty decree and return home and take part in political life within the framework of the Nicaraguan Constitution, then we could talk to him. And we could also talk to the other contra leaders on the same terms."

[Chavez] Will there be a total amnesty for the contras?

[Borge] As yet no decision has been reached on that. But it has, of course, made an impression on us that many people have taken the view that the amnesty should not embrace former "executioners." (Members of Somoza's national guard—ed).

[Chavez] The opposition has charged your reforms are purely cosmetic.

[Borge] It is the opposition's role to criticize. It would be strange otherwise. Also, I am not a cosmetics expert, but I can only say that we have always shown a face without makeup.

[Chavez] If a peace agreement is not achieved, will *La Prensa* and Radio Catolica be closed again?

[Borge] *La Prensa* and Radio Catolica have been reopened definitively, without conditions, for a limited period [as published]. Both media can say what they like, without any form of censorship.

[Chavez] The opposition accuses the government of mixing party and state.

[Borge] We have an autonomous government and we have a party, the FSLN, in power. And any party that has a majority naturally has a decisive influence on the government. In the 1984 election 70 percent of Nicaraguans voted for the Sandinist Liberation Front, the FSLN. That is why we have a majority and that is why we naturally have great influence.

[Chavez] It is alleged that the Army belongs to the party.

[Borge] The Armed Forces in this country came into being during the war of liberation which was led by the FSLN. That is why it is, in my opinion, natural that the forces which took power 8 years ago should today support the FSLN. Surely no one can demand that we should call on the Army to vote for the conservatives. But the soldiers can of course vote in accordance with their own consciences. We have free and secret elections.

[Chavez] What will happen to the Army when the war is over?

[Borge] We have still not discussed this question fully. Personally, I do not think that the threat to Nicaragua would be past even if the war were to end. Unfortunately, I believe that conditions in the world would still be such that it would be necessary to have armed forces. But I could envisage that the soldiers could be drawn into socially useful activities to a much greater extent.

Speech by Daniel Ortega in Moscow Criticized

PA180109 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Nov 87 p 5

[Paid advertisement by the Nicaraguan Resistance; "reprinted from the 9 November San Jose LA NACION editorial: 'The Great Fraud'"—italics as published]

[Text] Idealism is not in conflict with intelligence or dignity.

The desire for peace in Central America should disdain neither common sense nor a clear perception of events. History has generously taught us that self-deception has been one of the most refined components of war.

If Nicaragua is the source of the war in Central America, and peace is possible only though its democratization, in other words, by giving up Marxism-Leninism, then a rational evaluation of the peace plan will demand an improvement in the Nicaraguan Government's conduct, rather than in the universal fulfillment of the five commitments by the five signatory countries. The latter would be tantamount to charging each country with an equal share of the responsibility.

From this point of view, three speeches made by Daniel Ortega—two in Moscow and one last week in Managua—tell us more about Esquipulas II and about Central America's future than the deceptive decisions or promises made by the Nicaraguan regime for the express purpose of gaining time and charming the unwary.

The most important of these speeches was the one Daniel Ortega delivered on 3 November in Moscow at the meeting of Communist political parties on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution. The speech was also broadcast by Voz de Nicaragua.

Just as eloquent as the contents of the speech itself was the Nicaraguan president's presence at that international Communist conclave, unequivocal proof of his strong

adherence to Marxism-Leninism and USSR leadership, precisely during the days when the Central American foreign ministers were examining the fulfillment of the five commitments of Esquipulas II. The communist leaders' talent for cynicism is infinite and has always been on par with our naivete.

It would be an insult to the readers' intelligence and common sense to interpret Daniel Ortega's speech at the Kremlin's convention palace.

I will limit myself, therefore, to gleaning a few phrases and publishing them verbatim, because this public testimonial by Daniel Ortega before his bosses describes Central America's reality with inimitable crudeness and tell us that while the democratic Central American countries do not know where they are going, the Nicaraguan regime knows very well what it is and where it is going.

The speech began with a solemn *"Esteemed Comrade Gorbachev, esteemed comrades"* and established from the first sentence his servile and communist tone from the very core: *"I bring the brotherly and combative greetings of Sandino's people to Lenin's people."* He later made a series of statements that reduced the peace plan to a cartoon, and the oath to fulfill it to a fraud.

1. *"Seventy years ago, the Russian workers, guided by Lenin and this formidable party that would become the vanguard of the proletariat, made the sparkling efforts of the Paris Commune a reality; this time there was light once and for all in the land of the Soviets, laborers, soldiers, and peasants."*

2. *"The October victory made Marx and Engels' scientific proposal a reality carried out by Lenin's creativity, audacity, and firm character. The October victory marked a new era in the history of humanity, in which it would be demonstrated that power could be in the hands of the laborers. It could be in the hands of the peasants, and it could be in the hands of the working people."*

3. *"The Soviet people's heroic resistance to foreign counterrevolutionary aggression and fascism encouraged the struggle of people in Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean. This was possible because of the peoples' firm decision to break the chains of exploitation, while relying on the generous and decisive militant solidarity of the Soviet Union"*

4. *"Comrades, 70 Octobers have passed and the creative force and decisive militant solidarity of the USSR has survived..."*

5. *"The October revolution in 1917 by the masses made socialism the life creation of the masses."*

6. *"Esteemed Comrade Gorbachev, esteemed comrades, the Nicaraguan people who released themselves from the capitalist and defeatist exploitation of the past 8 years ago are proud of their fraternal relations with the USSR."*

7. *"Despite pressures, despite aggression, and despite blackmail, we will never surrender our fraternal relations with the USSR."*

8. *"Eight years ago we found the path to liberty and the people's democracy, defending the mixed economy, political pluralism, and nonalignment."*

9. *"In response to the U.S. aggression and the threats of invasion, Sandino's people have resisted, are resisting, and will continue to resist until they achieve total victory. This effort by the Nicaraguan people has led to the formation of a broad Latin American front, the Contadora Group, and the Support Group...."*

10. *"The firmness and the heroism of Carlos Fonseca's people have been decisive in the defense of revolutionary power, in the defense of a just peace, and in the signing of the Guatemala agreements on 7 August of this year."*

11. *"The international community has supported those agreements and trusts that the firmness of the Central American presidents in executing the agreements—which begins on 5 November—will be effective."*

12. *"In these decisive moments for the consolidation of the FSLN's revolutionary power, the vanguard of the working people expresses gratitude on behalf of the Nicaraguan people for the unconditional and generous cooperation of the USSR Communist Party...."*

13. *"In response to lies and slander we must affirm that we have relied and will continue to rely on this USSR cooperation."*

Daniel Ortega has a virtue: he is unrelentingly coherent. We should at least have the dignity and courage to not deceive ourselves and not allow ourselves to be deceived. A president who renders an account in this manner at the Kremlin and who expresses his thoughts in this manner will never be able to seek the path of democracy. We hope Costa Rica will not participate in this great historic fraud.

The deadline has passed!!!

Nicaraguan Resistance.

RN Berates FSLN Failure To Promote Democracy

PA171328 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Nov 87 p 24

[Paid advertisment by the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN); boldface as published]

[Text] **Esquipulas II: ?**

Peace or War

Democratization in Esquipulas II Agreements

The governments agreed to promote an authentic, democratic, pluralistic, and participative process that would include the promotion of social justice, respect for human rights, sovereignty, the nations' territorial integrity, and the right of all nations to freely determine their economic, political, and social models without any foreign interference. They would take steps, in a verifiable manner, to establish and, depending on the individual case, perfect the democratic, representative, and pluralistic systems that guarantee the organization of political parties and the effective popular participation in decisionmaking in order to ensure that diverse opinions could find expression through honest and periodic electoral processes to be based on full observance of citizen rights.

Far from promoting a democratic process, Sandinism:

Has continued denying the right of political parties to express themselves freely.

Has continued to increase social injustice by producing poverty and penury.

Has continued to violate human rights by persecuting, jailing, torturing, and bombing rural civilian populations.

Has continued to align its national policies with the Soviet empire's will, thus trampling national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Has continued to consolidate the aberration of slavery of the Army-party-state, which is completely incompatible with the democratic system.

While other governments strive to comply, Daniel Ortega reaffirms his communist creed by visiting Gorbachev.

Sandinism has not complied

Sandinism is a hindrance to peace

Nicaraguan Resistance

Contra Founder on Mid-1980's Activities

PA171657 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 15 Nov 87 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed article: "Contra Chief Breaks Silence"]

[Excerpts] A high-ranking counterrevolutionary leader, disgusted by the corruption, thefts, assassinations, and all sorts of iniquities, has decided to publicly make known those contra leaders who have greatly profited from the war.

Alberto Suhr was received by Ronald Reagan in the White House in 1985 and was praised by Reagan for his activity against the Sandinist government. Suhr held a high-ranking position as an intelligence officer in the FDN and in the MISURA [Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas]. He gave extensive statements to *El Nuevo Diario* about the immoral background of the mercenary movement.

Suhr, one of the founders of the counterrevolutionary movement, joined the Somozist forces in 1982 as an intelligence officer under the orders of contra leaders "Abel" and "Vikingo." [passage omitted]

He said that since the self-styled 15 September Legion was formed by low-ranking Somozist officers; higher ranking officers did not want to join it. It was at this time that former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez became involved. "From the start Bermudez said he would not get involved if he was not guaranteed good pay in dollars. He initially demanded $3,000 a month."

"The two officers who told Bermudez that they wanted him to participate in the contras told me that from the beginning it was clear Bermudez' sole motivation for being in the struggle was money, rather than moral principles to overthrow the Sandinists."

Suhr also said that the Argentine Embassy in Honduras began to grant funds in hard currency and to guarantee the training and recruitment of the contras through the use of high-ranking Honduran soldiers.

Suhr said that Bermudez first served as liaison between the mercenaries and the Honduran Army, "but as time passed—and with CIA help when it seized total control of the movement—Bermudez became FDN chief of staff."

"To obtain control of the new irregular army, Bermudez became associated with former Colonel Ricardo Lau and other senior Somozist officers. With them and with the support of the Honduran Army he began to purge the ranks of the original founders of the counterrevolution."

Suhr stressed that in 1982 a large number of those who had taken the path of an armed struggle "began to propose that they give up their weapons and hold a dialogue with the Sandinists."

He emphasized that "the majority of the contras of that period were waiting to see what occurred in Nicaragua and to see how the new leaders acted. Some of the contra founders were saying they had nothing to fear if they returned to Nicaragua because they had only been cadets or had held government posts."

Exports To Be Paid for in C.A. Currencies

PA171426 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Nicaragua will accept the national currencies of the other Central American countries in payment for its exports to facilitate the region's trade exchange as stipulated in the Esquipulas II agreements.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Ministry, through this decree, has opened the possibility of paying for commercial transactions through the Central American Imports Bond System, DICA, and other mechanisms adopted by the central banks of the five isthmian countries.

Clashes Between Government, Contras Reported

10 Contras Killed

PA140415 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Nov 87 p 2

[Text] Ten counterrevolutionaries were killed on 11 November during clashes with EPS troops in Bocana de Paiwas, southeast of Waslala; in Las Pavas, in the autonomous region of the south Atlantic; and near Galapago Hill, southeast of Acoyapa, the Defense Ministry reported.

In a communique issued last night, the Defense Ministry reported that a rifle and a knapsack had also been confiscated during the 11 November clashes near Waslala.

The ministry also reported that on 10 November the contras kidnapped three civilians in Tutumbla, east of La Libertad, Chontales Department. On the following day the mercenaries attacked the post at La Pedraga, 3 km west of Santa Marta, in the autonomous region of the north Atlantic.

The ministry report also noted that two civilians were killed and four mercenaries were wounded.

San Marcos Attack Repulsed

PA160349 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0245 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Report from Jinotega]

[Text] The counterrevolutionaries have suffered a huge defeat. More than 25 counterrevolutionaries died today when they tried to seize some towns. Early today, at approximately 0445, a large counterrevolutionary force composed of more than 400 counterrevolutionaries tried to seize the town of San Marcos, 25 km north of Jinotega. That town has some 300 houses and a population of approximately 2,000.

As a result of the resistance by the people and the EPS, 25 Somozist mercenaries were killed and an undetermined large number were wounded.

In Zacatera, 15 km south of San Marcos [1-second break in reception] in the afternoon. The clash ended at approximately 0530. The contras suffered an undetermined large number of casualties. The dead included two contra leaders and two Honduran mercenaries.

Lieutenant Adrian Rivera, commander of the Special Interior Ministry Forces, died heroically in combat.

The Sandinists recovered many weapons from the mercenaries as a result of the two battles. The recovered materiel includes RPG-7's, LAW rockets; AK, [words indistinct] and FAL rifles and more than 3,000 rounds of ammunition.

There were only three civilian injuries. Right now the mercenaries are fleeing in disarray toward [name indistinct], on the slopes of Moropotente Hill, Esteli municipality.

7 Killed 11-12 Nov

PA170418 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 16 Nov 87 p 6

[Text] Seven mercenaries on the U.S. Government payroll were killed in various parts of the country during clashes with the EPS, which recovered a large quantity of war materiel. This information was given in an official Defense Ministry bulletin that said two mercenaries were killed in combat on 12 November in Cano El Guanacate, south of San Juan de Rio Coco, Nueva Segovia Department. A claymore mine was recovered there.

On that same day, two more mercenaries were killed in combat in Santo Domingo, southwest of San Jose de Bocay, Jinotega Department. One claymore mine, four knapsacks, three M-79 grenades, and one pair of jungle boots were recovered from those mercenaries.

According to other reports, the EPS killed three more mercenaries in combat on 11 November in the area of Santa Rosa, Jinotega Department.

Meanwhile, the contras blew up two more electricity towers in La Naranjita, La Nortena sector, Jinotega Deparmtent. On the following day they blew up another tower in a town close to San Juan de Rio Coco.

4 Contras Killed in Chontales

PA171742 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0109 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Communique issued by the Public and Foreign Relations Directorate of the Defense Ministry on 16 November in Managua]

[Text] On 16 November self-defense group members at the (Piquin-Guerrero) rice complex, 20 km southeast of Acoyapa in Chontales Department, repelled a counterrevolutionary attack perpetrated against the aforementioned complex, which left four mercenaries dead and two civilians wounded.

Public and Foreign Relations Directorate of the Defense Ministry.

Argentina

Caputo Addresses Falklands Issue at UN

PY172115 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2005 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Nov (NA)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today called upon the UN General Assembly to reiterate its support for efforts to find a negotiated solution to the Malvinas conflict, stressing that the talks Argentina and Great Britain are holding through U.S. intermediaries in search of an accord on humanitarian issues should "produce concrete results."

In a 10-page speech delivered in New York, a copy of which the Foreign Ministry released here, Caputo warned that "the current situation between Argentina and Great Britain is bringing no good to either side, and it has prevented the effective resolution of major humanitarian and environmental problems in the region."

Caputo spoke in anticipation of the vote tomorrow at 1600 (Argentine time) on a draft resolution calling upon both sides to negotiate over "all the aspects of the future situation" of the islands. Caputo's British counterpart, Geoffrey Howe, addressed the UN General Assembly last week.

"The resolution of these urgent needs has been seriously jeopardized by our deep disagreements," he added.

He said that it is first necessary "to try to avoid incidents that might increase tension in the southwestern Atlantic," adding that "a possible depredation of the living resources of the area must be avoided."

He stressed that "these issues are very important for the general security of the region and for the welfare of its inhabitants," adding that these issues "in no way provide any indication of the position that each side has on the sovereignty issue, because the rights that both Argentina and Great Britain have claimed with regard to the sovereignty issue must be maintained as a clearly separate issue."

In his speech, Caputo stressed that "the essence of the Argentine-British problems is obviously the dispute over sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands. The General Assembly should therefore now reiterate its appeal to the two sides, calling upon them to begin as soon as possible talks to find a peaceful, negotiated solution to the bilateral problems, including all aspects of the future of the Malvinas Islands."

"It is essential to resume talks in order to guarantee a future of peace, security, and prosperity in the Malvinas Islands region," he added.

Caputo maintained that there is an international trend toward "seeking peaceful settlements to conflicts between states."

"It is obvious that in an environment that promotes dialogue and accord, the persistent refusal by some governments to find negotiated settlements to their disputes appears as an anachronistic attitude," he said in relation to Great Britain.

He said: "Such attitudes are becoming increasingly inconsistent, from a political and a psychological viewpoint, with the aspirations and feelings that prevail in the world today."

He said: "The British Government's refusal to comply with Resolution 41/40 of the General Assembly has caused this irregular situation" in the southwestern Atlantic.

He said: The resolutions of the forum do not seek "to favor either side but, rather, to promote Argentine-British reconciliation on a firm, stable, and lasting basis."

Caputo said: "We can say that the broad international support for a quick beginning of direct negotiations with an open agenda between Argentina and Great Britain also reflects respect for and understanding of the Argentine claim."

He remarked that "many governments—and not just in Latin America—have supported Argentine rights over the territories being disputed with Great Britain."

He remarked that "the Nonaligned Movement has specifically supported my country's rights to recover the islands through negotiations."

"This is not just by chance. Neither is it merely the result of natural political or regional solidarity. Instead, it reflects the sound historic and legal reasons that support the Argentine cause," Caputo concluded.

Expresses Satisfaction on Vote

PY172339 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2241 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Nov (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has expressed great satisfaction over the outcome of the UN vote approving a resolution that urges the parties concerned to begin comprehensive negotiations on the Malvinas Islands conflict. He said the resolution was approved despite tremendous pressure exerted by Great Britain.

In remarks made to Radio Nacional from New York, Caputo noted that few resolutions have been approved at the UN General Assembly by such an overwhelming majority: 114 votes.

Caputo said it is flattering for the Argentine people that distant countries with which we barely maintain relations have voted in favor of holding negotiations—

which are opposed by Great Britain—despite the tremendous pressure exerted by the London government, considering that Argentina cannot resort to the type of economic power available to the British Government.

Further on Armies of Americas Conference

Caridi Remarks Reported

PY172111 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1313 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Mar del Plata, 17 Nov (DYN)—Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi said here today that "the national security doctrine" has been discarded, and that the officers present at the conference are concerned about the drug trafficking problem "because the Armed Forces are part of society, which must be made safe from this scourge."

In an interview with local publications, Caridi said ideological pluralism "is not being discussed" at the Conference of the Armies of the Americas [CEA], "but drug trafficking and terrorism are being discussed."

"Drug addiction is a problem that affects all the countries, as well as armies, because they are part of the countries," the military chief said, adding: "The measures being adopted are aimed at preventing this problem from affecting the Armed Forces because they are part of society and therefore they, too, must be made safe from the scourge of drug addiction and trafficking."

When asked about the criticism of the national security doctrine, which was followed by Argentine and other Latin American officers, especially after the 1960's, Caridi responded that this doctrine "has been totally discarded; therefore, this subject is not being discussed."

He said: "This was clearly expressed by the defense minister (Horacio Jaunarena); therefore, there is nothing more to talk about regarding this issue." Caridi also referred to the possibility of establishing an exchange between Argentine and U.S. officers, a possibility he called "positive," and added: "the U.S. Army, like any modern army, offers training possibilities for our cadres."

However, he explained, "this subject is being handled by the defense minister, himself, and whatever he orders will be obeyed."

Caridi repudiated the bomb attacks that took place in Cordoba, and the one against former Army commander General Jorge Hugo Arguindegui, retired, because "they do nothing at all to help the current national situation." He expressed regret at the fact that events like kidnappings of businessmen haven taken place, and he ruled out the possibility that rebellions such as the one that took place during Easter Week or the La Tablada incidents would be repeated after the announcement of the new chain of command.

Military Chiefs Speak

PY171701 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1422 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Mar del Plata, 17 Nov (TELAM)—Chilean Army Chief of Staff General Manuel Barros Recabarren today said that a plebiscite will be held in Chile probably next year, and that he supports General Pinochet's candidacy for the plebiscite. [passage omitted]

The Chilean officer made this statement on the occasion of the 17th Conference of the Armies of the Americas that is being held in the Provincial Hotel in this city. Meanwhile, outside there was a demonstration by some 20 Chilean exiles holding banners with slogans denouncing torture in Chile, saying that Pinochet is a murderer, and demanding his expulsion. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Malvinas Islands issue, Barros Recabarren said: I am a Latin American and I fully understand the troubles of our sister countries. Therefore I cannot disagree with the Argentine position.

In turn, General Benito Guanes Serrano, a member of the Paraguayan delegation, said that the armies of the Americas are always close to the people and part of them.

Regarding the subject of drug trafficking and terrorism, Guanes Serrano said that this is a world scourge that must be fought. It is a cancer in our societies.

Regarding the U.S. presence through the use of special commandos to fight drug trafficking, such as in the case of Bolivia, the Paraguayan officer said: We have not thought of employing any similar action.

He added: We believe that our forces are being successful in this difficult task.

Meanwhile the deliberations of the 17th Conference of the Armies of the Americas continued today as of 0830 in the Provincial Hotel conference room, in the presence of representatives of 16 Latin American countries and observers from other countries, including the United States.

Different commissions were set up to discuss drug trafficking and antiterrorist actions, as well as technical and professional issues. The deliberations are being held behind closed doors and the media is not allowed to attend.

Strict security measures were adopted at the Provincial Hotel after last night's demonstration, staged in front of the hotel, by human rights organizations and leftist political sectors. Mrs Hebe de Bonafini [Mothers of Plaza de Mayo leader] harshly condemned the military chiefs. The protesters also distributed pamphlets and published a paid add in the local newspapers stating: We do not want terror in Mar del Plata. Out with the Malvinas aggressors.

After the demonstration, which interrupted traffic around the Casino area from 2000 to 2100, another pamphlet, signed by Commando 111, was distributed by the supporters of former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico. These pamphlets said: Yes to Easter Week! Hurray for the Malvinas hero!

U.S. Group Presents Proposal

PY172200 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1518 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Mar del Plata, 17 Nov (NA)—Military sources confirmed here today that as of tomorrow, the United States will promote a proposal for the Conference of the Armies of the Americas to recommend that its member countries reach diplomatic agreements to revise the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR).

The U.S. deputy chief of staff for operations and plans, Lieutenant General Carl Vuono, tomorrow will submit to the conference's Committee No 1 a proposal that the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war be included in the TIAR, and that Convention benefits be extended to guerrilla fighters.

According to the spokesmen, the U.S. proposal "represents a first step toward de facto recognition of military intervention and continental cooperation in so-called low-intensity conflicts."

Observers of the conference believe the initiative is based on the "need to give the Nicaraguan contras legal status," and although most of the countries support the U.S. criteria, it is believed that at least Chile, as well as Colombia and Paraguay, will oppose the proposal.

It was leaked that tomorrow Chile will submit to Committee No 1 a report listing the times the TIAR has failed, among them when it was summoned by Argentina during the war over the Malvinas.

The Chilean proposal will be made by Chilean Army Chief of Staff General Manuel Recabarren, who will reportedly use this opportunity to express Chilean opposition to the U.S. proposal because "it provides a legal framework for the activities of leftist insurrection movements, such as the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left."

Military advisers of the Chilean delegation this morning met with their Colombian counterparts to broaden their opposition to the U.S. proposal, and it is believed that this type of meeting will continue throughout the week with the representatives of other countries.

Colombia, although it has expressed disagreement with the method used by Chile to deal with its opposition, agreed that "subversion cannot be made legal." Colombia is struggling against this scourge with the so-called "Condor Plan," which the Colombian leftist and human rights organizations term "an extermination plan similar to the one used in Argentina during the military regime."

Chile might also have the support of Paraguay and Panama, while Peru and Argentina have not adopted any stance in this regard so far.

Through unofficial spokesmen, Argentina has stated that "it questions the TIAR because of the way it was used during the Malvinas war, although it might agree with its modification as long as the point establishing reciprocal assistance in view of foreign attacks is reinforced."

Bomb Explodes in Punta Alta; No Victims

PY171414 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1223 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 17 Nov (TELAM)—A medium sized-bomb exploded last night in the doorway of a building in Punta Alta, located 30 km from this city, in the [words indistinct] of a similar nature that were registered less than a week ago in the neighboring city.

Police have reported that at approximately 0015 a device, which apparently contained 100 grams of TNT, exploded in the doorway of a building located at 174 Luiggi Street in Punta Alta, where the Cadalso Cafe operated until recently.

The explosion caused some damage to the walls and windows of the building. No neighboring premises were damaged and there were no victims.

The building is currently unoccupied and has a sign in the front noting that the building is for rent.

Bolivia

Foreign Debt Negotiations Progressing

PY171325 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0506 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] La Paz, 16 Nov (EFE)—Bolivian Central Bank President Javier Nogales today said negotiations to buy the Bolivian foreign debt contracted with international private banks are expected to end soon.

He said the latest reports from Washington are encouraging, according to the Bolivian special envoy carrying out the negotiations. Nogales added that several friendly countries have expressed their wish to supply the necessary funds to buy the Bolivian foreign debt.

He also explained that Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Fernando Illanes, former ambassador to the United States, is the primary official negotiator, and that he is in Washington negotiating with the representatives of the 120 creditor banks.

"The purchase of the debt," he said, "will herald the possibility of new credits for Bolivia, which will promote the economic and productive reactivation plan of President Paz' administration."

According to unofficial reports, the Bolivian foreign debt contracted with the private banks amounts to $1.2 billion.

Heavy Caliber Weapons Found in Santa Cruz

PY131444 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Heavy caliber weapons and a great quantity of ammunition were seized in Santa Cruz during the past few hours. [passage omitted]

Reliable sources have reported to our station, that these weapons were imported by a Bolivian company named Oriente on 16 September. The weapons entered the country through a Pacific Ocean port and were then transported in metal containers with tags saying that they contained fireworks. Investigators found the arms were sent from the PRC.

Apparently, Julio Prado Salmon, former Santa Cruz de la Sierra mayor, is involved in the importation of the arms.

Army 8th Division sources refused to comment on the matter. It was reported, however, that the La Paz Army General Command may provide some information on the issue. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Investigate

PY161453 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1917 GMT 14 Nov 87

[Text] La Paz, 13 Nov (EFE)—Air Force Commander Jorge Rodriguez Bravo today reported that the Bolivia Military Command is investigating the contraband weapons which came from the PRC, and which were seized by customs officials.

The weapons were brought into the country with the authorization of Defense Minister Alfonso Revollo and were being shipped in boxes labeled fireworks addressed to the company "Corporacion Comercial Oriente Ltd."

Automatic rifles with infrared telescopic sights, 10 mm ammunition, mortars, and guns were found in the boxes, according to unofficial reports.

General Rodriguez Bravo said he was "surprised" at the authorization given by the Defense Ministry to a private company to import these weapons and revealed that the Military Command will meet on 17 November to evaluate this case of weapons smuggling.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry has issued a communique stating that it authorized the Oriente company to import a "minimal" amount of different weapons for an annual exhibition that takes places in Santa Cruz. This material was supposed to be reexported after the exhibition, according to the communique.

The operation was discovered when Customs Office personnel inspected the boxes and found that they contained "a much larger amount of weapons than had been authorized by the ministry," according to the communique.

The Defense Ministry reported it will press charges against the Oriente company for smuggling.

Brazil

Commission Vote on Presidential Term Reported

PY171407 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 16 Nov 87

[By Antonio Carlos Silva]

[Text] In what proved to be a very close victory, the Systematization Commission last Sunday approved an amendment sponsored by PMDB Deputy Jorge Hage from Bahia State, proposing a 4-year term for the current president of the republic. In fairly tumultuous balloting, the proposal was approved by a 48-to-45 vote.

The gallery and the hall of sessions were packed.

Senator Afonso Arinos and PFL leader Jose Lourenco opposed the amendment, while Senators Jose Richa and Mario Covas supported it.

The first ballot, which was conducted through an electronic panel, was canceled because PMDB Deputy Egidio Ferreira Lima from Pernambuco State said that he had voted for the amendment and the panel showed the opposite.

Before the ballot was conducted, Senator Afonso Arinos read a message that President Sarney sent to the Constituent Assembly, expressing his concern that he was not being understood.

The following is the message:

I am willing to hold talks, seeking national conciliation [words indistinct] distress and concern are prompted by misinterpretations to the effect that I am merely seeking to extend my term.

In the second ballot, which was conducted normally, the amendment was approved with the vote cast by Senator Jamil Haddad, the PSL [Brazilian Socialist Party] leader, ensuring the 47 votes required to approve the amendment.

In the opinion of government leader Carlos Sant'anna, the Systematization Commission does not represent the majority of the Constituent Assembly members. [recorded passage indistinct]

In the opinion of Senator Mario Covas, a reduction in the term of the current president is the result of different political stands and is not a matter of victory or defeat.

According to Covas, this was just another episode in the country's democratic life, which will be further consolidated.

Sarney Not To Retaliate

PY180035 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Civilian Household Chief Ronaldo Costa Couto today said the reduction of President Sarney's term will not cause dismissals in the administration. Costa Couto added that Sarney will not adopt any retaliatory measure, explaining that as of now, the president will act in keeping with the request contained in the Rio de Janeiro declaration, a document that was signed by 21 governors. In the document, the governors asked President Sarney to freely discharge his duties, that is, to do so without political restrictions. This is what the president will do as of now.

Costa Couto added that the president feels free to govern and that he will introduce all the changes that he deems necessary.

The minister said the president will not adopt any retaliatory measures, but he will designate people whom he trusts to fill positions of confidence.

Aeronautics Minister Cited

PY180222 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Nov 87 p 2

[Text] Brasilia—Aeronautics Minister Moreira Lima yesterday stated that should the Constituent Assembly plenum confirm the Systematization Commission decision for a 4-year term for President Jose Sarney, the country will become ungovernable next year because "the members of Congress will be worried about their own campaigns."

The work of Congress will not end with the new constitution. It is appropriate to remember that all laws must be changed in order to implement the new text of the constitution. And how will this be done if the congressmen are campaigning, the minister asked. There are new rules of the game, without which nothing will be done. We think the 5-year term will neatly end the transition period. But President Sarney's successor will receive not only a new constitution but a whole new set of laws that will regulate the implementation of constitutional rules. With the 4-year term, the presidential campaign will have to begin immediately, and it will be very difficult to have a quorum to approve the laws to implement constitutional guidelines.

Administration Minister Aluizio Alves has discarded the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle to exclude parties that voted for the 4-year term. He did not deny, however, the possibility of a reform.

In other words, any government reform would not be directly related to the recent voting for the 4-year term. To govern, the president needs a majority in Congress, and this majority is not obtained with friends, but with parties.

Aluizio Alves said Sarney received the report on the decision with surprise and emotion. According to him, the president will not call for direct elections—which he will preside over on the date established by the Constituent Assembly plenum—and he will not become involved in any deals to change the decision. Some ministers, however, began talks with some congressmen, governors, and party leaders this week.

Assembly Plenum To Begin Voting in December

PY171522 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] The Constituent Assembly plenum will begin to vote in early December. Until then, amendments will be introduced to draw up the new text of the constitution, which is in the hands of the sponsor [Deputy Bernardo Cabral], including the provisions approved by the Systematization Commission, which finishes voting tomorrow.

[Begin relay by Edgar Tavares] The Constituent Assembly will be fairly busy this week, not in terms of sessions but behind the scenes. According to the current schedule, the Systematization Commission will conclude its work tomorrow and will send the draft constitution to the Constituent Assembly plenum for a vote.

The Constituent Assembly should begin voting on the draft constitution this week after it is published, distributing it among the Constituent Assembly members, and receiving the proposed amendments. However, with regard to voting on its implementation, this depends on whether the resolution draft required by the so-called

'Centrist Group' [made up of Constituent Assembly members from seven parties who command a total of 340 votes] is or is not approved.

The intention of the 'Centrist Group' is to [word indistinct] many things that have already been approved, introducing amendments to Cabral's proposal, which, according to the regulations in effect, is prohibited.

Thus, the party leadership will have plenty of work. Some party leaderships seek the approval of the resolution draft required by the 'Centrist Group' while other party leaderships seek its rejection or at least the amendment of the draft so as not to permit total changes as sought by the conservative group.

In addition, the Constituent Assembly members and their respective teams will have to work very hard to draw up amendments to the draft constitution, which will be completed tomorrow by the Systematization Commission, and then deliver them to the Constituent Assembly president, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes. [end relay]

Guimaraes' Health Improves After Surgery

PY171823 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes' health condition remains good. This afternoon he will request authorization from the doctors to walk around the room where he is resting, and to eat normally.

Yesterday Guimaraes underwent an angioplasty to eliminate an obstruction in one of the heart arteries. Guimaraes slept well and had breakfast during the morning. There is no risk that the artery will clog again in the short term. According to Professor Adib Jatene, from the Heart Institute, the health problem affecting Guimaraes has been overcome.

Guimaraes, president of the PMDB and the Constituent Assembly, is resting in a room on the eighth floor of the Heart Institute. Outside the hospital there is an air of expectation. [passage omitted]

Guimaraes' personal physician, Professor (Ramon Matos), has said that Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes must remain at the Heart Institute for 3 or 4 more days. After this Guimaraes will be free to enter the political fray again. [passage omitted]

Sarney Welcomes Visiting Hungarian President

PY161448 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1425 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] Reporter Irineu Tamanini now reports directly from the Brasilia Air Base:

[Begin Tamanini relay] It is now 1225 local time and Hungarian President Karoly Nemeth has arrived here at the Brasilia Air Base. President Sarney is standing by the stairs of the presidential Boeing of the Brazilian Air Force which brought President Nemeth from Rio de Janeiro. This afternoon, he will hold a working session with President Sarney at the Planalto Palace. The two presidents will discuss the possblity of expanding bilateral trade. In 1986, Brazil exported nearly $104 million worth of goods to Hungary, and imported $25 million. This therefore, represents a trade deficit for Hungary.

Tonight, the Brazilian Government will host a reception for the Hungarian president and his retinue at the Itamaraty Palace.

From the air base, President Sarney will go to his official residence at the Alvorada Palace, and this afternoon will attend to official business at the Planalto Palace. [end relay]

Chile

Garcia Views OAS Resolution on Bolivian Issue

PY172036 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia, who has just returned to Chile after attending the OAS General Assembly in Washington, has said Bolivia's aspirations cannot be mistaken for rights or demands. The minister said Chile has satisfactorily upheld its position at the meeting, stressing that the OAS is not the right forum for analyzing the Bolivian issue.

The OAS resolution calling upon Chile and Bolivia to analyze their own problems is very far from what Bolivia wanted, Garcia said, adding that Chile has clearly stated that wishes and aspirations cannot be mistaken for rights and demands. As we see it, Garcia said, the Bolivians have an aspiration which they would like to be recognized as a right, but the OAS did not agree with this. What Bolivia obtained at the OAS meeting is very far from what it demanded at the plenary session, he said.

As for the OAS resolution calling upon Chile and Bolivia to resume the dialogue, Garcia said the OAS has no jurisdiction on the issue and therefore, it cannot express an opinion.

Garcia will meet this afternoon with General Pinochet, to brief him on his participation in the OAS meeting.

Junta Member Discusses 19 November Rally

PY180212 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, commander in chief of the Chilean Navy, has said the O'Higgins Park rally, which is being organized by the National Workers Command [CNT] and the Civic Assembly, may be held as long as those who participate do not cause disorder after the event.

The Government Junta member made this comment at the end of the legislative branch's ordinary session during which seven draft bills were submitted for approval. Among these was the draft bill for the approval of the convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading forms of punishment.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Admiral, could you give us your opinion of the rally being organized by the Civic Assembly and the CNT for Thursday the 19th at O'Higgins Park?

[Merino] I believe that if people have to talk, get together, say things, tell each other things, well, they should be allowed to do so—it is no big deal—as long as after the rally, they do not attack people in the surrounding neighborhoods with fists and sticks, or set houses on fire, or engage in any other type of destruction. If it is going to be a gathering in which speakers address the crowd, which listens and is satisfied with what it hears, well, this is something that has always taken place in Chile, except for the past few years, during which a number of humanoids have appeared. Instead of behaving like human beings, they behave like animals. [end recording]

Admiral Merino was then asked about the declarations by the Punta Arenas bishop, Msgr Tomas Gonzalez, who said it is morally legitimate not to respect constitutional Article No 8.

[Begin recording] [Merino] Well, let him see what happens if he does not respect it. If he does not respect it we will (?punish him accordingly).

[Reporter] Admiral, the committee for free elections intends to request an audience with the Government Junta. Are you willing to talk with them?

[Merino] We can do all the talking they want; I still have not received the request. But that does not mean we are going to change the Constitution.

[Reporter] But would you be willing to receive them?

[Merino) Of course. To talk for the sake of talking costs nothing. [end recording]

Referring to the draft bill regarding the national congress, Admiral Merino asserted that it should be ready by next month at the latest.

The Government Junta member said he wants the congress to be established on Errazuriz Avenue so the congressmen can have a view of the sea and be aware that Chile is a maritime country.

Civil Court Orders Investigation Into Torture
PY171427 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0331 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Santiago, 16 Nov (EFE)—A civil court today ordered a military court to investigate the case of torture involving a 26-year-old girl who was arrested and has been held incommunicado for 14 days. She is accused of having participated in the kidnapping of an Army colonel.

The Court of Appeals issued a resolution ordering the investigation of four irregular procedures in the arrest of student Karia Eitel Villar, who holds dual Chilean and FRG citizenship.

The military prosecutor who ordered her arrest, Colonel Fernando Torres, accused her of being connected with the kidnapping of Colonel Carreno, who has been in the hands of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] for 75 days.

According to the charges raised by the prosecutor, Karin Eitel apparently acted as spokesperson for the FPMR, which claimed to have kidnapped Col Carreno.

The newspaper *La Epoca* today reported that according to a medical examination carried out by the legal medical service, the student shows bruises inflicted by beatings with clubs and has been incapacitated for 16 to 18 days.

The girl, a language student from the Catholic University of Santiago, was detained on 2 November by Chilean Intelligence Center, CNI, members; her detention was denied for 4 days.

Military Prosecutor Torres ordered that Karin Eitel be held incommunicado, thereby prohibiting her family, lawyer, and Red Cross representatives from seeing her.

The civil court's resolution states that the CNI acted illegally when it did not report the detention of Karin Eitel.

The civil court ordered the military court to investigate the girl's arrest, and the raid on the house where she was staying, because it was carried out without complying with the legal procedures or without an appropriate order of arrest.

It also orders an investigation of the detention of Karin Eitel for 4 days in an unknown place and the alleged torture to which she was submitted.

Police Detain FPMR Member Trained in Bulgaria
PY141820 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Nov 87

[Text] Nelson Espinoza Lopez, member of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], has been detained. Espinoza Lopez told the police that the FPMR had plans to organize a so-called popular army, with the members having received military training in a Bulgarian regiment.

This group was ready to take action with the weapons found after the frustrated murder attempt against President Pinochet. But when the arsenal was discovered and the attack on the president was thwarted, this movement failed.

Espinoza Lopez and 11 other Chileans had been in Bulgaria, where they were trained in handling tanks, large-caliber weapons, explosives, combat techniques, and political indoctrination.

For this purpose Espinoza Lopez received $800,000 from the Communist Party. With this money he crossed the Andean border into Argentina, where he began his trip to Frankfurt, Germany. In this city, Chilean communist contacts gave him money and false documents in the name of Julio Cesar Pino, with which he traveled to Bulgaria, where an agent was waiting for him. He was immediately taken to a military base to begin his training.

The police are continuing their investigations to find the other members of the extremist group and the 11 Chileans who received military training in Bulgaria.

Colombia

Report on Investigation Into Pardo's Murder
PA140137 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Nov 87

[Report on results of investigation into the murder of Patriotic Union, UP, Leader Jaime Pardo Leal; read by Justice Minister Enrique Low Murta from unidentified location—live or recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...thanks to the Colombian judges' unselfish work, thanks to the conscientious work by the state's security forces and the members of the Judicial Police, and particularly thanks to you, for your contributions as citizens, today we can tell the country that the perpetrators and masterminds behind Jaime Pardo Leal's vile murder have been identified.

The national government is pleased to tell the public that the investigations conducted by the judges of the 77th, 27th, and 30th Criminal Courts in coordination with the Administrative Department of Security, the Attorney General's Office, and the National Directorate of Criminal Investigation [Direccion de Instruccion Nacional Criminal] into the murder of Jaime Pardo Leal have resulted in a great success in the struggle against organized crime, with the identification of the perpetrators and masterminds of this execrable murder, in which drug trafficking is irrefutably involved.

Following the murder of the president of the UP National Coordinating Board on 11 October in La Mesa jurisdiction, the president of the Republic ordered the creation of a high level special investigative commission whose members performed a difficult job. During the preliminary investigation, they did not overlook any clue, which led to the positive results presented to the presiding judge.

So that the public can objectively and honestly evaluate the government's willingness to guarantee citizens' lives and honor, we hereby present the most important parts of the investigation, keeping other parts secret to ensure the investigation's successful conclusion.

Pardo Leal's murder was planned several weeks in advance by a complex criminal organization financed by individuals linked to drug trafficking and the emerald business. There is clear evidence that Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, alias the Mexican, offered several million pesos to several persons to murder Pardo Leal. The military is carrying out operations in relation to this. Rodriguez was the mastermind who charged William Infante, his trusted aide, with hiring henchmen and planning the murder, for which Infante received 30 million pesos.

Infante first contacted his sister Oliveria Acuna Infante, whose identification number is 41-660-929, issued in Bogota, and his brother Jaime Infante, alias the Cat. Later, he contacted other individuals known as Beller and Jose Orlando, who surveyed the terrain, obtained weapons and vehicles, tapped telephones, determined the victim's schedules and actions, and did other things to help carry out the crime.

The investigators began their work by searching a large area where the suspects could be hiding; preliminary results were obtained by examining the vehicle that the gunmen used.

The evidence they gathered confirmed that the individuals involved were from Paime, and that they carried out their criminal activities in the Bogota, Yacopi, and Coscues sectors.

Later, the investigation revealed other important facts, such as the criminal record of several of the implicated individuals, and the fact that Jaime Infante, alias the Cat, was detained at the National Modelo Jail a few months before the crime, and arraigned before Bogota's 33d Municipal Penal Court on charges of homicide and armed robbery.

After analyzing the modus operandi and the evidence investigators confirmed that Jaime Pardo Leal's murder was planned at Oliveria Acuna Infante's residence, which became the center of operations, and that the crime was not politically motivated. On the contrary, everything indicated that individuals linked to organized crime planned and carried out this crime, apparently in reprisal for Pardo Leal's charges against well-known drug traffickers, whom he accused of supporting and financing the so-called self-defense or paramilitary groups located in the eastern plains and other parts of the country. Another theory supporting this conclusion is based on the disputes over the unfair sharing of profits between the guerrillas and drug traffickers in areas such as (El Ariari); here the guerrillas' extortion of the drug mafia, and the latter's reprisals against UP leaders, have taken place because of the drug mafia's inability to directly strike against guerrilla leaders.

The assassins constantly followed Dr Pardo Leal; this allowed them to ascertain when he was not accompanied by DAS [Administrative Department of Security] bodyguards. Since the thugs believed their chances of eluding the authorities would not be good if the assassination took place in an urban area, they chose an isolated rural area for the crime.

Using a phone tap, the killers learned Pardo Leal would be going to La Mesa. Then they implemented the plans for the crime's final phase. They went to La Mesa, armed with two pistols and one shotgun. They used two privately owned vehicles: one taxi and one motorcycle.

Following the assassination, the killers met at the home of Oliveria Acuna Infante, Carrera 48-c-817, San Rafael Neighborhood, Bogota. When William Infante returned from Medellin, 3 million [currency not specified] was distributed among Beller, Orlando, Jose and Infante.

Security organizations have captured Oliveria Acuna Infante, who now faces a judge's decision. Authorities are still looking for other members of the criminal band, including the person or persons who masterminded Dr Jaime Pardo Leal's murder. We have irrefutable evidence of their participation in this crime.

Based on this, the National Government reiterates its trust that the community will act in the nation's best interests and that, with their cooperation, other crimes that have shocked the country will also be resolved. The National Government is hereby urging the people to be optimistic that decent people will not have to give in to those who insist on destroying moral values. We urge the people not to discredit the authorities' impartiality and honesty in their struggle against corruption, vice, and organized crime, and to defend the civic and political guarantees of all citizens.

Important military operations are already under way to capture the people responsible for this crime.

Good night, dear citizens.

Peru

Garcia Rejects Rebels' 'Blackmail, Demands'

PA162144 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Speech by President Alan Garcia at the inauguration of a sports center in Canto Grande on 15 November—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On behalf of this popular democracy, of this democracy for the poor, I have come here to say that demands can be made only by those who are willing to live in a democracy in Peru. I have come here to say that the democracy we want is one of equality, and that it cannot be the democracy of those who have great economic power or those who have weapons in their hands. Demands and requests for changes in Peru can only be made by those who have made it their duty to win the people's support and the people's votes to achieve changes in Peru.

Democracy is a form of coexistence in which we are all equal or are moving toward equality. Democracy does not allow great economic inequality, but neither does it allow armed groups to impose paths that differ from those chosen by the people. Responding to reports informing us of the petitions, demands, and programs of armed groups, I, through the people's will as expressed by their votes, and with the people's support, have chosen this place to say that requests and demands can only be made by those who live within the framework of democracy. Only people living within the framework of democracy have the votes, affection, and support of the people in bringing about a change. [applause]

This is why I have come to Canto Grande, a zone of national popular development, for the democratic inauguration of a people's sports center and to say that in our hands is the strength of the law, because of the people's will, their votes, and their affection. I have come to say that just as democracy does not allow deep economic inequality, neither can there be blackmail and demands made by the brute force of weapons. To acknowledge that those who have a few rifles have the right to make demands is to acknowledge that those who have brute force are right. It would be to acknowledge that society can be changed through violence, that those who have more strength in terms of cannons and weapons are right. I have come here to talk about the principle of consent, which is the foundation of democracy. I have come to speak of the confidence I have in the people's wisdom, of my confidence in the people's intelligence in creating a better future through their decisions and their votes; and I have come to say that with the people's votes and the democracy the people support, we have much more power than any rifle or machinegun. As president of Peru, I do not promote the power of warplanes or

combat tanks. I respond to those who wage war on Peru's democracy by declaring peace on behalf of the affection of all these citizens; with this affection, we will defeat them. [applause]

Thus, I am making a permanent call to all Peruvians without exception. No one should lose faith in democracy, because one would be losing faith in the people and their intelligence. No one should lose faith in the people's right to create their own future, because one would be guilty of dictatorial totalitarianism. We must refuse to be treated like peons on a farm, or like recruits at military headquarters. We must demand our full citizenship, and our full citizenship establishes that the transformation, the revolution, can be carried out by coexisting in peace, gradually, with the people's votes and awareness.

Democracy means equality and freedom. Democracy means election and representation. Those who are not able to be convincing choose the path of tyranny, and there are right-wing and left-wing tyrannies. Tyrannies are not capable of reaching the people's conscience or the youths' intelligence. Tyrannies are born of the inability to convince, and they thus choose the path of arms; in the language of arms, only the strongest wins in the end. It is not the power of weapons that gives this government strength. It is the strength of having emerged from the vote of almost 4 million Peruvians. It is the strength emerging from the conviction of the need to make Peru more sovereign in response to the foreign banks and the big countries that dominate us. It is the strength emerging from the conviction of the need to make our people more equal and our society more egalitarian. We are democrats because we have emerged from the citizens' votes. We are democrats because we believe in social justice, and our moral strength will defeat all the weapons—the weapons of the right-wing tyrannies and the weapons of pseudoleftist totalitarianism.

It is up to the Peruvian people to understand their democracy as a collective effort. I urge you to demand your right to think. Let no one think for the Peruvian people. Let no one believe that because they may have a few rifles they have the right to create the Peruvian people's future. The Peruvian people have the right to civic culture, citizen's education. The ruler who governs by the strength of his money is as totalitarian and dictatorial as the one who feels he has the right to alter history because he has a few weapons. The language of weapons is only the language of strength, of material and brute force. We speak on behalf of a different dignity and different morals, those of affection, because the awareness we are creating among the people is the revolutionary desire for Peru, which wants to be free, fair, and ideal. [applause]

This is why I continue my sermonizing to the people, telling them that no one can think or act for them, and that the revolutionary forces that exist democratically must struggle to change Peru and make it better and more just. We are working on this, but the people's vote, the people's awareness, the people's will, cannot be replaced by any weapons, cannot be replaced by any force. I am calling to the poor people, not those who have money to defend. I call on the poor people to defend their democracy. I call on the people who are aware to tell them that they are on the path of transformation. I urge them to defend that path. I call on the poor, the laborers, the students to defend their democracy. I call on them to make Peru a land of true coexistence, democracy, awareness, and peace. I urge you to defend our right to transform Peru democratically, to prevent further bloodshed, grief, and violence. I call on you, with the legitimacy of having been elected by this people, and I call on you with the certainty of knowing that I still have your support.

In the struggle against the tyranny of money, and in the struggle against the tyranny of arms, I urge you all to stand up. [applause]

Long live democracy! [Crowd responds: "Long live!"] Long live freedom! [Crowd responds: "Long live!"] Long live justice! [Crowd responds: "Long live!"] Long live Peru's revolutionary transformation! [Crowd responds: "Long live!"] Long live Peru! [Crowd responds: "Long live!"]

Interior Ministry Denies Attacking Press

PA150033 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Nov 87

["Official communique" issued by the Ministry of the Interior in Lima, dated 13 November]

[Text] Although the Peruvian Senate met behind closed doors yesterday, the Ministry of the Interior has this to report to the general public:

1. Newspaper reports saying that Minister of the Interior Jose Barzalo Burgas has linked the press to terrorists are entirely false.

2. The minister of the interior never made this or any other remark about the press.

3. The minister of the interior obeys and respects the constitutional mandate regarding the unrestricted freedom of the press.

[Dated] Lima, 13 November 1987

[Signed] Social Communications Office of the Ministry of the Interior

Minister Saberbein Comments on Economy

PA121816 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Statement by Dr Gustavo Saberbein, economy and finance minister, before leaving for the United States and France on 10 November—recorded]

[Text] The economic team held one of its periodic meetings with the president and the prime minister. We analyzed the Peruvian economy's most recent economic indicators. There is continued economic growth, the investment process has been maintained during the past months, and we have imported a significant amount of machinery and equipment. We have already imported more than $700 billion [figure as heard] in capital goods in the first 9 months of the year.

In past days, there has been a favorable upsurge in raw material prices, especially copper prices; the prices of other exports are unchanged. This will benefit our exports.

We confirmed that our international reserves amount to more than $1.6 billion; there is $700 million in the vaults of the Central Reserve Bank, especially in gold, which is currently commanding a very good international price. The rest is kept in very safe places abroad.

Previously, reserves were estimated in net terms relative to the status of the economy and not in terms of willingness to pay the IMF and other creditors. From the start, this government made it a priority to make payments on domestic debts, support production, foster a better revenue distribution, and increase wages and salaries.

These indicators show we have enough foreign exchange to allow us to continue growing, but we must support exports even more; this is very important. Proposals we have presented during the talks with our creditors to allow Peru to make partial debt payments by increasing exports have been well received.

We are continually following up our economic performance and making greater efforts to ensure that our economy will continue to grow with more exports and better investment planning in the next 3 years.

Medical Workers' Strike 'Partially Successful'

PA142359 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Nov 87

[Excerpt] The Health Ministry workers' strike has been only partially successful. More than 65 percent of the employees at the Daniel Alcides Carrion Hospital in Callao reported to work. Only some services have been affected, hospital director Hildebrando Ruiz Cisneros has reported.

Only 40 percent [figure as heard] of the professional and nonprofessional workers at this hospital participated in the strike. Outpatient treatment was restricted and some operations were postponed, but other services have been provided by the employees. For example, 208 outpatients were treated today; 600 is the usual number. Director Ruiz said the hospital has not been forced to discharge patients and they have been well taken care of. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Swedish Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

PY170234 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias has said it is very likely Sweden will give Uruguay financial aid in the following areas: agriculture, education, and scientific research. Particular interest has been paid to the medical field. Iglesias added that Sweden is interested in promoting trade with Uruguay.

Iglesias made these remarks at Government House following an almost hour-long meeting between President Julio Sanguinetti and Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson.

[Begin Iglesias recording] A long list of projects prepared with the help of several ministries was discussed. Some of the projects were formulated for areas in which Sweden and Uruguay have already promoted cooperation, as in agriculture, education, and scientific research, and specifically in medical research, which is a program that has rapidly expanded.

All this reveals an increasing interest on Sweden's part in its relations with Uruguay. In addition, we want to promote trade with a country whose policies are quite tolerant, except for the controversial sectors of agriculture and textiles. Swedish businessmen have been exploring possibilities in this regard, and there are good prospects.

Major investment plans were also proposed by this country, particularly in the area of forestation, an area in which they have considerable experience. The Antarctic issue was also discussed during the meeting, along with a long list of initiatives that may receive support in view of Sweden's political interest in our country. [end recording]

In what was referred to as a very interesting meeting, President Sanguinetti and Minister Andersson addressed Uruguayan-Swedish relations, the situation of some neighboring countries, the Central American issue, and foreign debt issues. [passage omitted]

Guyana

Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi Arrives

FL170128 Bridgetown CANA in English 0016 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 16, CANA—Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi arrived in Guyana on Monday [16 Nov] at the start of a three-day state visit. Lusinchi and his high-powered delegation touched down at the Timehri International Airport at 10:20 a.m. (local time) and was given a 21-gun salute and a red carpet and steelband welcome involving hundreds of Guyanese led by President Desmond Hoyte.

After motoring to the city, he was given a similarly enthusiastic welcome by a cheering crowd gathered at the scenic promenade gardens where a civic reception hosted by the Georgetown City Council was held in his honour at noon.

In welcoming the Venezuelan leader before presenting him with a symbolic gold key to the city, Georgetown Mayor Robert Williams said the visit was a momentous one for Guyana and a source of much happiness and satisfaction for all Guyanese.

We salute you today as a leader of great statesmanship and wisdom, a politician of the highest calibre, an old neighbour and a good friend, Williams told President Lusinchi.

The mayor also noted that over the last two years Guyana and Venezuela had embarked upon several programmes of cooperation in a genuine spirit of good neighbourliness and friendship. He said he hoped the current visit would serve to concretise the means through which additional programmes for bilateral cooperation may be effected.

In his response, President Lusinchi said he was in Guyana as the bearer of the Venezuelan people's friendship. He said Venezuela hopes that his presence in Guyana would serve to enhance the ever-more positive course of our relations.

In addition, as president of Venezuela, as a Venezuelan, and as an old friend of Guyana, Lusinchi said he was pleased to be back in Georgetown where in 1972 tribute was paid to the founding fathers of the Nonaligned Movement when a monument was erected in their honour. In them (the founding fathers of the Nonaligned Movement) we find a permanent presence and commitment, he told the large gathering.

While here, President Lusinchi will be keeping a very busy schedule holding wide-ranging talks with President Hoyte, addressing the National Assembly, meeting with the leaders of the three minority parties in parliament, and visiting the University of Guyana and the Caricom Secretariat.

Kwayana Calls for Political Upheaval

FL131501 Bridgetown CANA in English 2327 GMT 12 Nov 87

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 12, CANA—Co-leader of the opposition Working Peoples Alliance (WPA) Eusi Kwayana ended an 11-day protest fast on Thursday and immediately called on Guyanese to work to achieve political upheaval.

In a strongly-worded statement issued at the end of a half-hour religious service marking the end of the fast, Kwayana also told Guyanese to burn down petrol stations.

I tell you in all justice, if the petrol stations offend you, burn them down, he said. Kill no man or dog, but set those obscene horse-whipping centres on fire. What did Jesus do to the fig tree that bore no figs?

The opposition parliamentarian staged the fast to draw attention to issues including a fuel shortage that has angered Guyanese. His remarks about the burning down of petrol stations brought quick response from a senior police official who said they were very irresponsible. The statement is expected to draw a strong response from the Desmond Hoyte Government.

My language is direct and indirect, plain and in parables, Kwayana said. We are dealing with oppression by persons of extremely low political culture who delight that their subjects glorify them by accepting their man-made suffering.

Kwayana was severely critical of President Hoyte who he said was installed and not elected as head of state. Kwayana added: If he is a just man, as some think, he will quickly break out of his illegality and join with the sufferers against the evil-doers in the government and party sector. He will implement the recommendations of the integrity commission and call urgent talks with the opposition parties as a first step to returning the destiny of this country where it belongs—in the hands of the people.

Kwayana, the lone WPA member of parliament, contended that should the recommendations of the integrity commission be accepted and put into effect with sincerity, there can be a positive political upsurge. But if the government does not arrange roundtable talks with the entire opposition, he added, we must work for a political upheaval and must start preparing the ground at once. It must be an upheaval of the children of justice against injustice, of righteousness against unrighteousness, of oppressed against oppressor, he said.

The veteran politician and one-time general secretary of the ruling Peoples National Congress (PNC) contended further that, in a way, Guyanese horsewhip themselves and help their own suffering. But it is time we face this major weakness of what is becoming our makeup, he said.

We are too patient with suffering and we seem to accept the most foolish excuses. In the long run, if we keep on like that, our children may become idiots. We are escaping politics and pretending it is not there. We must stop this sinful behaviour. We must put more righteousness in it. We must not leave our destinies to crooks, conmen, and cocaine dealers, he added.

Kwayana said he wished to appeal to all sufferers to love one another for unless they make peace with their rivals quickly, the oppression will get worse and they all will remain under the yoke.

Kwayana added: Unless we first learn that the black skin of the Afro-Guyanese is not a painters mistake, the tinges of the mixed are not artificial, the social speed of the Amerindian is not a paralysis and our racing to the brink is not a virtue, that the beliefs of the Indo-Guyanese are not pagan or foreign, we shall all likewise perish under whatever brute seizes power.

He said his fast should be seen as an act of solidarity with the homeless and the hungry throughout Guyana and in all parts of the world. He said those who are hungry should rebel against the conditions which make them and their children hungry.

Suriname

Budget, Export, Elections Decrees Approved

FL161900 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] Last Friday morning, the National Assembly adopted four decrees after a 10 hour meeting. The Elections Decree has been amended and now includes the procedures to declare votes null and void. The National Assembly decided to give Surinamese nationality to 28 persons. By general approval, agreement was reached on an initiative proposed by some assembly members to authorize the government to determine the 1987 budget. The government expects to spend 1.2 billion guilders in the coming year. The budget deficit for 1987 amounts to about 250 million guilders.

The discussions on the decree concerning the export duties on [word indistinct], rice, and rice products, lasted the longest. Money generated from the export duties will be put into a special fund for the rice sector and is to be managed by the Suriname Rice Export Company, SUREXCO. Annually, Suriname earns about $40 million from the export of rice.

Bouterse Campaigns for NDP in Para Districts

FL161845 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] Last weekend was characterized by a series of political meetings by the various parties which will participate in the 25 November elections. The NDP [National Democratic Party] was in the Para District; the Labor Party in the (Wanka) District; while the (Kiri) District was also visited by these two parties as well as the front [Front For Development and Democracy] and the PALU [Progressive Workers' and Farm Laborers' Union].

Speaking at the NDP meeting in the Para District last Saturday, Desi Bouterse said the revolution must be completed. It will hurt me if we take backward steps and submit to the western bloc. Bouterse said that the National Democratic Party has the right ideas for the development of Suriname, adding that this party is in (?pursuit) of democracy not only by word of mouth. He told the meeting that to choose the old political parties is the same as choosing corruption, favoritism and nepotism, economic dependence, and unemployment.

PALU Presents National Priority Program

FL161937 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] To take this country out of the present crisis you need to understand the problems just as you need to find thorough solutions to the problems, said PALU [Progressive Workers' and Farm Laborers' Union] chairman Iwan Krolis last Friday to the press. He told the press that his party has already presented the national priority programs, in which the problems and their solutions are included, during the elections of 1977. Krolis is of the opinion that there has not been fundamental changes in the past 10 years, and that's why the PALU is contesting the elections with the same priority program of 1977.

The PALU chairman was of the opinion that the renewal influence of the PALU in Surinamese politics is unmistakable. To give an example, he drew attention to the fact that political parties, which have never drawn up an election program in the past, have now presented a platform for the [word indistinct] intentions. He said that the electorate will, on 25 November, express themselves on the various elections programs. With the exception of the Sipaliwini District, the PALU has put up candidates in all the districts. Korlis told the press that his party has high expectations in the elections of 25 November.

Brazil, France Decline To Send Observers

FL171919 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] The first group of foreign observers for the general elections to be held in 8 days time will arrive in the country today. Brazil and France have been invited but

will not send observers because, as they put it, they do not want to interfere in Suriname's internal affairs mentioning the upcoming general elections. The United States, Ghana, The Netherlands, and Belgium will send observers. Also, the Organization of American States as well as the ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific] group are sending delegations. From Guyana it was reported yesterday that the Caribbean Human Rights Association will also send an observer team. A total of 20 countries and organizations have been invited to observe the November 25th election. The Foreign Ministry expects response today from other invitees.

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